UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/35
14 August 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 6

OTHER ISSUES

Note verbale dated 10 August 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq, entitled "Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq kindly requests the secretariat of the Sub-Commission to circulate this statement* as an official document of the fifty-third session of the Sub-Commission under agenda item 6, entitled "Other issues".

---

* The annex is reproduced as received, in Arabic and English only.

GE.01-15371 (E) 270801 030901

Annex

Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues

Mr. Chairman,

Under this item, my country's delegation wishes to make some observations which it regards as basic and which, if taken into account, might help in the implementation of methods and procedures to promote dialogue and enhance the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

During the last 50 years, considerable advances have been made in the formulation of basic human rights standards, to which reference is made in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Human Rights and numerous international conventions and declarations. However, we are still faced with the problem of procedural standards concerning the manner of implementation of international conventions, since these procedures and working mechanisms should be in conformity with the standards and rules of international law. For example, although the principle of the right of States to sovereignty and non-intervention in their internal affairs is a firmly established principle of international law, this right has been violated repeatedly through the recognition of situations in which interference in internal affairs is permitted on the pretext of the protection of human rights. Accordingly, the endeavours that are being made to formulate human rights standards should include the establishment of mechanisms to apply those standards and should take the following concepts into consideration:

1. Avoidance of selective interpretations of human rights in furtherance of aims and purposes relating to various, sometimes mutually conflicting, international interests, which can be described as a policy of double standards insofar as some international situations are dealt with in an extremely severe manner while other similar situations are handled in a more indulgent and even biased manner.

2. Avoidance of insistence on separating civil and political rights from economic, social and cultural rights, since they constitute an integrated whole. No State should be accused of failing to ensure proper health and nutrition while it is being denied the right to avail itself of its natural resources.

3. Avoidance of any misinterpretation, or erroneous determination of the scope, of the principle of the right to self-determination in an attempt to void that right of its basic content and apply it within the context of the rights of minorities with a view to fragmenting nations and peoples on a religious or ethnic basis in furtherance of political aims and international interests.

With regard to the work of the United Nations human rights organs, emphasis should be placed on the need for the special rapporteurs to play an objective and impartial role and enter into a constructive dialogue with the States concerned since, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/174 entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the

human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity", the fundamental task assigned to them is to improve the human rights situation and not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country in which they are examining the situation.

The delegation of Iraq hopes that the distinguished Commission will take these observations into account when considering and examining human rights questions and situations, as this would enhance its credibility and improve the procedures for the achievement of its aim of promoting human rights throughout the world.